

# The Book of Romans

## The Introduction

*Romans 1:1-7*

### Predestination is Introduced

*God Determines*

#### Definition

God determines all that happens before it happens. *Ephesians 1:11, Jeremiah 1:5; Prov. 16:33*

#### Not based on Future

God does not base his determination on anything that will happen in the future. *Romans 9:11*

#### Responsibility

Those who he determines are responsible for their actions. *Acts 4:27-28; Matt. 26:24; Isa. 10:5-19*

#### Blamed for Sin

God is never to be blamed for the sin that is a part of his predestined plan. *Romans 9:14*

#### Mystery

How he does this is a mystery. *Romans 9:19-20*

## Sorting out the meaning of Apostle

#### Chosen by Jesus Christ

Apostles with a Big “A” are those who were chosen by Jesus Christ. They were men who filled a unique role in the early church. (Directly called by Christ; eyewitnesses of the resurrected Christ who sent them; signs of an apostle [ability to do signs and wonders and miracles to verify their stewardship and message])

*Mark 2:13-17, Acts 1:12-26, 2 Corinthians 12:12*

Apostle - means one who is officially sent. Paul has been called or set apart. He was commissioned and authorized by Christ to represent Him and speak for Him and provide a foundation for His church through true and authoritative teaching. *Eph. 2:20, 3:5*

Q. Where is the foundation of the apostles for the church?

A. In the deposit of apostolic writings - the New Testament Scriptures. So let us not receive the book of Romans as a message of man, but of Christ! *1 Thess. 2:13*

#### Representative of a Church

Apostles with a small “a” are those who function as representatives of local churches. This is a broad category that could contain many varieties. *2 Corinthians 8:23, Acts 14:14*

## What does it mean to be CALLED?

### **Audible Call**

*Romans 1:1*

God speaks and tells Paul what he wants him to do. This is not an impression or feeling but an audible voice. *Acts 26:12-18*

We do not see an example in Scripture of someone being "called into the ministry" or "called to the mission field" by an impression. (i.e. no "still small voice" in your mind) Any feeling or impression that comes from within us falls in to the subjective realm. We cannot be certain about anything that comes from within us - that is from the subjective realm. What we need is an objective outside authority that can sit in judgment on our feelings or impressions. Our Lord in His goodness has provided such an objective authority; it is the Word of God. In fact the Bible claims to be all sufficient for providing God's will for the believer. *2 Tim. 3:16-17, Acts 20:27*

The Scripture reveals the will of God to us in a form of words and sentences and in a context that can be checked. If we have a question about what a particular passage means, we have the means to verify whether or not it is saying what we think it is saying. The Bible cannot be made to say anything you want it to say. Only the will of God as revealed in the Bible is checkable.

### **Call of Conversion**

*Romans 1:6-7*

This is the process by which someone becomes a believer. This is the work of God and specifically it is the Holy Spirit who does the calling. *John 6:44, John 3:5-8*

### **Gospel Call**

*Romans 1:5*

When we share the gospel we call unbelievers to believe the gospel in order to be saved. The gospel is offered to all freely. *Matthew 22:14, John 3:16*

### **Life Call**

*1 Corinthians 7:20*

This call refers to your station in life. In the context of 1 Corinthians 7 it refers to state of being married or unmarried. Verse 17-22 show the word call used in terms of the call of conversion.